

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 DODE-00 L-03 EURE-00 /055 W

----- 110903

P R 291030Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2066

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2357

STATE PASS FBIS FOR DIRECTOR PETERSON

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY US

SUBJECT: GOC ANNOUNCEMENT OF FBIS OPERATIONS IN NICOSIA AND
INITIAL PRESS REACTION

REF: STATE 130234

1. ON JULY 29 GOC PIO RELEASED STATEMENT ON OPENING OF FBIS OFFICE
IN NICOSIA AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: THE FOREIGN BROADCAST INFOR-
MATION SERVICE (FBIS) RADIO OPERATION AT KARAVAS, THE FUNCTIONS
OF WHICH WERE SUSPENDED WHEN ITS PERSONNEL WERE EVACUATED IN
JULY 1974, IS BEING RESUMED ON A LIMITED BASIS WITH THE CON-
CURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AS AN ANNEX OF THE US

EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. THE KARAVAS STATION FORMERLY EMPLOYED ABOUT
80 PEOPLE. SOME OF THESE WILL BE RETURNING TO THEIR JOBS
IN THE NICOSIA OFFICE, WHICH WILL EMPLOY SOME 20 PEOPLE.
END QUOTE.

2. STATEMENT IS PRECISE TEXT WHICH AMBASSADOR PROPOSED TO FONMIN
CHRISTOPHIDES ON JUNE 7, 1975 AND WHICH HAD DEPARTMENT CON-
CURRENCE (REFTEL). ESSENTIAL POINTS, WHICH WE CONSIDER
ADEQUATELY COVERED, ARE A) FBIS OPERATION IN NICOSIA HAS CON-
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CURRENCE OF GOC, B) IT IS LIMITED IN SIZE, AND C) OFFICE IS AN

ANNEX OF EMBASSY.

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, PIO DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN DECISION, POINTING OUT THAT GOC'S AGREEMENT IS NO MORE THAN A CONTINUATION OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND NEEDED NO ELABORATION. GOC SPOKESMAN, IN RESPONSE TO SECOND QUESTION, ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE OTHER FACILITIES TO AMERICANS.

4. BACKGROUND: WORD OF FBIS NICOSIA OPENING BEGAN TO LEAK OVER PAST WEEKEND. EMBOFFS RECEIVED QUERIES FROM CYPRIOT REPORTERS HAVING GOOD ACCESS TO GOC. INTEREST SPURRED BY TURKISH CYPRIOT ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 26 THAT AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS WOULD BE "TAKEN OVER" BY TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION.

5. GREEK MEDIA (ATHENS ELEVTHEROS KOSMOS AND NICOSIA MAKHI) ALSO CARRIED STORY ON FBIS OPERATIONS JULY 27 LINKING TURK ANNOUNCEMENT WITH NICOSIA OPENING, ADDING KICKER: "GRANTING OF PERMISSION BY CYPRUS GOVERNMENT FOR US RADIO STATION IS CONSIDERED BY POLITICAL OBSERVERS AS SOME TURN BY NICOSIA TOWARD WASHINGTON FOLLOWING CERTAIN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH MOSCOW'S STANCE ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION."

6. MOST NICOSIA PAPERS JULY 29 CARRIED PIO RELEASE WITHOUT COMMENT. ONLY COMMUNIST HARAVGHI BLASTS REACTIVATION OF "SPY STATION" AND STATES IT "CONFLICTS WITH EXPRESSED DESIRE OF POPULATION FOR ELIMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN BASES", CITING "DIRTY ROLE OF THESE STATIONS AT EXPENSE OF SINCERE AND UNSELFISH FRIENDS OF OUR STRUGGLE SUCH AS SOVIET UNION...AND ARAB WORLD," AND DECLARING THAT THERE IS "ABSOLUTELY NO JUSTIFICATION" FOR REACTIVATION.
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